It is a humbling honor to stand before you today. Though I am not a member of this distinguished Company, I know many of you and am deeply aware of the legacy you carry and the tradition you preserve. I come among you not as a soldier or historian, but as a preacher, bringing words of comfort and hope drawn from the sacred Scriptures.

We gather today to honor the memory of those who served under the banner of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts. We remember them as people of valor and vision, those who walked with purpose and left behind an inheritance of service and sacrifice.

As an outsider to your Company but not to the cause of remembrance, I find Psalm 91 to be a fitting tribute for

the lives we honor today. It speaks not only to the realities of battle and uncertainty, but to the deeper spiritual truth that God is our ultimate refuge.

The members we remember today lived with that courage. They bore responsibility not only as defenders of country but as examples of character. And whether they were called to serve in battle or in civic life, they served with honor and humility.

For nearly 400 years, this Company has stood as a witness to history, not simply guarding the freedoms of this land but shaping its very character. I am grateful, as are so many, for the ways in which your members have contributed to the peace and promise of our nation.

You are keepers of a sacred tradition. A tradition that reminds us that liberty is not the gift of circumstance,

but the fruit of sacrifice. And so today, we pause to honor the names and deeds of those who have joined the ranks of eternity.

Psalm 91 is more than a reading, it is a promise. It speaks to every generation that walks in the shadow of danger and chooses to trust in something greater. The words, 'He is my refuge and my fortress,' are not only a soldier’s shield, but a citizen’s confession.

In our own lives, whether in uniform or not, we are called to take up the mantle of service and the practice of faith. We are called to remember not with nostalgia, but with resolve. To live out the values that brought such honor to those we memorialize.

United in the calling to live with honor, courage, and compassion. Let us take the torch handed down by

those we remember today and carry it forward with the same dignity they displayed.

As I look upon this assembly, I see the fruit of their labors, not only in ceremony, but in character. The best way to honor the past is to embody its finest ideals in the present. May this service strengthen your commitment to that noble path.

In moments of silence, may we listen for the voice of the Spirit, reminding us that the God who was faithful to generations past remains faithful still. Let their memory anchor us, inspire us, and lead us onward.

This sacred gathering reminds us that the power of memory is more than recollection, it is renewal. When we remember rightly, we draw strength from the lives of others. We find clarity for our own path by studying the faithful footsteps of those who have gone before us.

Let us also take heart that Psalm 91 is not only a word of comfort for those who mourn, but a commission for those who live. It calls us to stand firm, to trust deeply, and to act courageously. As we remember those who have finished their course, let us also examine how we will run ours.

And as a preacher, let me say, never underestimate the quiet influence of a life lived with integrity. The world often praises the loudest voices and the most visible accomplishments. But it is the steady, faithful servant, the kind of person this Company has nurtured across generations, whose impact endures long after the world stops watching.

Though I speak to you as a guest, I leave here today with a deepened respect and heartfelt gratitude. May the Lord, who promises shelter under His wings, grant

eternal rest to those we remember, and strength to those who carry on.

May God bless this Company, this Commonwealth, and this nation. And may we all dwell in the shelter of the Most High, trusting in the One who is our refuge and fortress.